IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase from *Nicotiana tabacum* tolerant to photobleaching herbicide ~~and derivatives thereof~~, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2 or a mutated peptide having deletion, addition, or substitution~~, etc.~~ of one or more amino acids in the above amino acid sequence and having (1) an enzyme activity equivalent to that of the polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO:2 and (2) tolerance to a photobleaching herbicide ~~pyrazole compounds~~ equivalent to that of the polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO:2~~said protoporphyrinogen oxidase, tolerant to photobleaching herbicide~~,

wherein said photobleaching herbicide is a pyrazole compound selected from the group consisting of ethyl 2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxyacetate, ethyl 2-[5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-2,4-dichlorophenylamino]propionate, 4-chloro-3-[4-chloro-2-fluoro-5-methoxyphenyl]-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole, 4-chloro-3-[4-chloro-2-fluoro-5-(2-propynyl)oxyphenyl]-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole, ethyl 2-[2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxy]propionate, 1-methylethyl 5-[4-bromo-1-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-yl]-2-chloro-4-benzoate, and 4-chloro-3-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole.

2. (Currently amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase tolerant to photobleaching herbicide of claim 1, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2 with ~~, wherein~~ one or more amino acid ~~acids~~ deletions~~is deleted~~

~~and the polypeptide has an enzyme activity equivalent to that of said protoporphyrinogen oxidase tolerant to photobleaching herbicide~~.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Previously canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The isolated protoporphyrinogen oxidase according to claim 1~~7~~, wherein the photobleaching herbicide is ethyl 2-chloro-5-(4-chloro-5-difluoromethoxy-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-yl)-4-fluorophenoxyacetate~~fluoophenoxyacetate~~.

9-26. (Canceled).